

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-46 (Canceled).

47. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a consumable product which comprises producing a consumable product and incorporating within said consumable product during or after said production, a mixture of 6-O- α -D-glucopyranosyl-D-sorbitol (1,6-GPS) and 1-O- α -D-glucopyranosyl-D-mannitol (1,1-GPM) in an amount and at a ratio of 1,6-GPS to 1,1-GPM sufficient to serve as a bifidogenic prebiotic and as a butyrate-supplying (butyrogenic) substrate ~~at least one of a prebiotic function and as a fermentable substrate~~ in a subject upon consumption by said subject of the consumable product.

Claims 48-49 (Canceled).

50. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, wherein said consumable product is selected from the group consisting of a human food or other consumable product, an animal feed product and a medicament.

51. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 50, wherein the mixture serves a prebiotic function and wherein said mixture is the sole prebiotic material contained in the consumable product.

52. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 50, wherein the mixture serves a butyrogenic function and wherein said mixture is the sole butyrogenic material contained in the consumable product.

53. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, wherein said mixture is isomalt.

54. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, which further comprises adding to said mixture at least one material selected from the group consisting of mannitol, sorbitol, hydrogenated oligosaccharides, non-hydrogenated oligosaccharides and 1-O- α -D-glucopyranosyl-D-sorbitol (1,1-GPS).

55. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, which further comprises adding to said mixture at least one material selected from the group consisting of a soluble dietary fiber, an insoluble dietary fiber, a fermentable dietary fiber, a non-fermentable dietary fiber and a non-digestible carbohydrate.

56. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 55, wherein said mixture further comprises a dietary fiber and wherein the dietary fiber is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of an oligosaccharide, a polysaccharide, poly dextrose, xylorabans, inulin, a galacto-oligosaccharide, lactulose, lactitol, a xylo-oligosaccharide, lacto-sucrose, a malto-oligosaccharide, an isomalto-oligosaccharide, a gentio-oligosaccharide, glucosyl-sucrose, a soybean oligosaccharide, a chito-oligosaccharide, a chitosan-oligosaccharide, a pectin, a condensed oligosaccharide, a caramel product, a galactomannan-oligosaccharide, a fucose-containing oligosaccharide, a fucose derivative-containing oligosaccharide, modified starch, partially hydrolyzed guar gum, maltitol, sorbitol, mannitol, xylitol, erythritol, hydrogenated starch hydrolysate, pyrodextrin and variants of one or more of the above materials, obtained by a method selected from the group consisting of partial hydrolysis, hydrogenation, oxidation and enzymatic, chemical or other modification of any of them.

57. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 56, wherein said material is an insoluble dietary fiber and wherein said insoluble dietary fiber is comprised of at least one of a resistant starch and a fiber material from at least one of wheat, oats, tomato, bean, the fruit of the locust tree, sugar beet and cellulose.

58. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, wherein the mixture additionally comprises a probiotic microorganism.

59. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 58, wherein said probiotic microorganism is derived from at least one genus selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus* and *Bifidobacterium*.

60. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 47, wherein the mixture is in the form of a synbiotic.

61. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 50, wherein said mixture is present in said consumable product as a solid or is suspended or dissolved in water in said consumable product.

62. (Previously Presented) A consumable product formed by the method according to claim 47.

63. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a human food which comprises producing a human food and incorporating within said human food, during or after said production, a mixture of 6-O- α -D-glucopyranosyl-D-sorbitol (1,6-GPS) and 1-O- α -D-glucopyranosyl-D-mannitol (1,1-GPM) in an amount and at a ratio of 1,6-GPS to 1,1-GPM sufficient to serve at least one of a prebiotic function and as a fermentable substrate in a subject upon consumption by said subject of the human food.

64. (Previously Presented) A method for producing an animal feed product which comprises producing an animal feed product and incorporating within said animal feed product, during or after said production, of a mixture of 6-O- α -D-glucopyranosyl-D-sorbitol (1,6-GPS) and 1-O- α -D-glucopyranosyl-D-mannitol (1,1-GPM) in an amount and at a ratio of 1,6-GPS to 1,1-GPM sufficient to serve at least one of a prebiotic function and as a fermentable substrate in a subject upon consumption by said subject of said animal feed product.

65. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a medicament which comprises producing a medicament and incorporating within said medicament, during or after said production, a mixture of 6-O- α -D-glucopyranosyl-D-sorbitol (1,6-GPS) and 1-O- α -D-glucopyranosyl-D-mannitol (1,1-GPM) in an amount and at a ratio of 1,6-GPS to 1,1-GPM sufficient to serve at least one of a prebiotic function and as a fermentable substrate in a subject upon consumption by said subject of the medicament.

66. (Previously Presented) A method for treating a bowel disorder in a subject in need of such treatment, which method comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a medicament prepared by the method of claim 65.

67. (Previously Presented) A method for achieving at least one of restoring and stabilizing a healthy intestinal flora in a subject in need of such restoration and stabilization, which method comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a medicament prepared by the method of claim 65.

68. (Previously Presented) A method for maintaining a relatively healthy intestinal epithelium in a subject in need of such maintenance, which method comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a medicament prepared by the method of claim 65.

69. (Previously Presented) A method for supporting intestinal health in a subject in need of such support, which method comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a medicament prepared by the method of claim 65.

70. (Previously Presented) A method for achieving at least one of restoring and promoting healthy metabolism in intestinal flora of a subject in need of said restoration or promotion, which method comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a medicament prepared by the method of claim 65.

71. (Previously Presented) A method for reducing toxic and harmful intestinal contents in a subject in need of such reduction, which method comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a medicament prepared by the method of claim 65.

72. (Previously Presented) A method for reducing oxidative stress in a subject in need of such reduction, which method comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a medicament prepared by the method of claim 65.

73. (Previously Presented) A method for treating a chronic inflammatory bowel disorder in a subject in need of such treatment, which method comprises administering to said subject a therapeutically effective amount of a medicament prepared by the method of claim 65.

Claim 74 (Canceled).

75. (Previously Presented) A method for treating infectious diseases in a subject in need of such treatment, which method comprises administering to such subject a therapeutically effective amount of a medicament prepared by the method of claim 65.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 75, wherein the infectious disease is selected from the group consisting of bacterial intestinal infections and diarrheas.

77. (Previously Presented) A method for modulating and strengthening the immune system of a subject in need of such modulation and strengthening, which method comprises administering to such subject a therapeutically effective amount of a medicament prepared by the method of claim 65.

Please add the following new claim:

78. (New) A method for increasing the amount of bifidobacteria and supplying butyrate in the gastrointestinal tract of a subject, said method comprising administering to the subject an amount of a mixture of 6-O- α -D-glucopyranosyl-D-sorbitol (1,6-GPS) and 1-O- α -D-glucopyranosyl-D-mannitol (1,1-GPM) in an amount and at a ratio of 1,6-GPS to 1,1-GPM that is effective to increase the amount of bifidobacteria and butyrate in the gastrointestinal tract of said subject.